

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

|   |   |                                |
|---|---|--------------------------------|
| In re Application of:                     | ) |                                |
|   | ) |                                |
| Frédéric FORTIN et al.                    | ) | Group Art Unit: 3775           |
|   | ) |                                |
| Application No.: 10/505,469               | ) | Examiner: Woodall, Nicholas W. |
|   | ) |                                |
| Filed: August 20, 2004                    | ) |                                |
|   | ) |                                |
| For: FLEXIBLE VERTEBRAL LINKING<br>DEVICE | ) | Confirmation No.: 4004         |
|   | ) |                                |

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION**

In reply to the Office Action mailed May 8, 2009, Applicants submit the attached remarks.

**A Complete Listing of the Claims** is presented in this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** follow the listing of the claims section of this paper.